

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are now pending in the application. Claims 13-18 are cancelled. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections of claims 1-4 and 6-12 in view of the remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-4, and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Matsuda et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,025,012). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites a manufacturing system comprising: a discharger for discharging a liquid material having fluidity onto a substrate; communication means for transmitting and receiving data through a communication line; and monitoring means for monitoring the state of the discharger and for outputting data obtained by the monitoring through the communication means. Matsuda et al. fails to teach or suggest the manufacturing system recited by claim 1.

Matsuda et al. fails to teach or suggest *a communication line* through which data is both *transmitted* and *received*, and communication means for both *transmitting* and *receiving* data through the communication line, as recited by claim 1. In other words, Matsuda et al. is silent as to communication *between* two devices over *a communication line* such that data is both transmitted and received over the communication line.

As supported by the specification, the communication line enables communication between a controller of a manufacturing device provider system and an ink-jet manufacturing device of a client system, whereby data is transmitted and

received there between. Specification, para. 40, Figure 1. The communication line is described as part of a communication network through which data can be transmitted. Specification, para. 40. The communication network may be a telephone network, a leased line network, or a computer network such as the Internet. Specification, para. 40. The communication line may be a telephone line. Specification, para. 71.

Matsuda et al., however, is not directed to communication. Rather, Matsuda et al. describes an apparatus capable of discharging a process liquid to a rotating substrate at a constant rate. Matsuda et al., Abstract. In other words, Matsuda et al. is directed only toward controlling a discharge apparatus. Matsuda et al. is silent as to communicating data through communication means, the data being obtained by monitoring a discharger, as recited by claim 1.

The Examiner references “input/output devices” in Matsuda et al. as anticipatory of communication means for transmitting and receiving data through a communication line recited by claim 1. Matsuda et al., Col. 10, lines 24-38; Office Action mailed 11/28/2005, paragraph 4. Applicant respectfully notes that the “input/output devices” referenced in Matsuda et al. are not communication means for transmitting and receiving data through *a communication line*. In fact, Matsuda et al., while mentioning the term “input/output devices,” does not disclose any output devices. Rather, Matsuda et al., describes the “input/output devices” as “including various sensors such as the sensors for detecting the rotational position of the screw shaft 24, and the number of revolutions of the substrate rotating motor 11.” Matsuda et al., Col. 10, lines 34-37. No actual output devices are described.

Further, in the Matsuda et al. system, none of the devices disclosed function as communication means for both *transmitting* and *receiving* data through a *communication line*, as recited by claim 1. In Matsuda et al., a controller is connected to a heater, a pressure control valve, liquid level sensors, a drive motor, a temperature detector, a substrate rotating motor, a moving motor, input keys, and sensors for detecting the rotational position of a screw shaft and the number of revolutions of the substrate rotating motor. The disclosed Matsuda et al. devices communicate with the controller via one way communication paths. The devices either send a signal to the controller, such as the sensors, or receive a signal from the controller, such as the pressure control valve. No communication line is described in Matsuda et al. over which data is both transmitted and received. No device in Matsuda et al. transmits and receives data over a communication line.

For these reasons, Matsuda et al. fails to teach or suggest communication means for transmitting and receiving data through a communication line, as recited by claim 1.

Matsuda et al. also fails to teach or suggest monitoring means for monitoring the state of a discharger and for outputting data obtained by the monitoring through the communication means. The Examiner references “state detecting means” in Matsuda et al. as anticipatory of the monitoring means. Matsuda et al., Col. 2, lines 36-46; Office Action mailed 11/28/05, para. 4. However, while Matsuda et al., describes “state detecting means for detecting a state of the process liquid,” state data is not outputted through communication means. Rather, in Matsuda et al., the state of the process liquid is simply used as an input to control the feed quantity of the process liquid. Matsuda et

al., Col. 2, lines 47-51. In other words, the state of the process liquid appears to be received by the Matsuda controller, and used to calculate a feed quantity of the process liquid. However, the process liquid state data is not outputted through communication means.

As recited by claim 1, monitoring means monitor the state of the discharger and output data obtained by the monitoring through the communication means. Matsuda et al. fails to teach or suggest monitoring a state of a discharger and outputting data obtained by the monitoring through communication means, as recited by claim 1.

For these reasons, Matsuda et al. fails to teach or suggest each and every element of claim 1. With regard to claims 2-4 and 9, Applicant notes that each either directly or indirectly depends from claim 1, which defines over the prior art as discussed above. Therefore, claims 2-4 and 9 also define over the prior art. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 4, 6-8, and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsuda et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,025,012) in view of Kohno et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,130,682). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In the 35 USC § 103 rejection, the Examiner argues that Matsuda et al. shows all elements of claim 1. As discussed above, Matsuda et al. fails to teach or suggest each and every element of claim 1. Applicant notes that the Examiner's additional reliance upon Kohno et al., with respect to the rejection of claim 1, is not explained.

However, Kohno et al. also fails to teach or suggest communication means for transmitting and receiving data through a communication line and monitoring means for monitoring the state of a discharger and for outputting data obtained by the monitoring through the communication means. Kohno et al. references a test discharging operation conducted by discharging only black ink, without discharging inks of other colors, thereby reducing wasteful consumption of ink. Kohno et al., Abstract. Kohno et al., fails to teach or suggest monitoring means for monitoring the state of a discharger and for outputting data obtained by the monitoring through communication means.

For these reasons, the prior art cited fails to teach or suggest each and every element of claim 1. With regard to claims 4, 6-8, and 11, Applicant notes that each either directly or indirectly depends from claim 1, which defines over the prior art as discussed above. Therefore, claims 4, 6-8, and 11 also define over the prior art. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsuda et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,025,012) in view of Hosaka et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,896,292). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Applicant notes that claim 10 depends from claim 1, which defines over the prior art as discussed above. Therefore, claim 10 also defines over the prior art. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Claim 12 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsuda et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,025,012) in view of Shimizu et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,554,891). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Applicant notes that claim 12 depends from claim 1, which defines over the prior art as discussed above. Therefore,

claim 12 also defines over the prior art. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

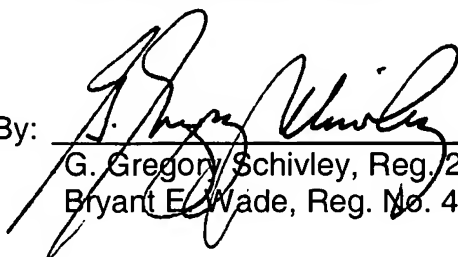
The Examiner states that claim 5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Although Applicant thanks the Examiner for recognizing the allowable subject-matter of claim 5, Applicant presently refrains from rewriting claim 5 in independent form in view of the remarks set forth above.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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